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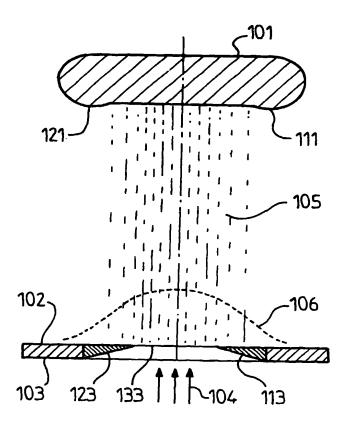
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- (74) Mandataire: PLACAIS, Jean-Yves; Cabinet Netter, 36, avenue Hoche, F-75008 Paris (FR).
- (81) États désignés (sauf indication contraire, pour tout titre de protection nationale disponible): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG,

[Suite sur la page suivante]

- (54) Title: CONTROL OF THE SPATIO-TEMPORAL UNIFORMITY OF A PULSED GAS LASER BEAM
- (54) Titre: CONTROLE DE L'UNIFORMITE SPATIO-TEMPORELLE DU FAISCEAU D'UN LASER A GAZ PULSE



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to the control of the spatio-temporal uniformity of a pulsed gas laser beam, especially generated by a high-power excimer laser. According to the invention, two raised lateral parts (111, 121) are provided on at least one of the discharge electrodes (101), said parts enabling the electrical discharge to be initialised at this level and to remain constantly stuck at this level after having spread over the entire surface of the electrode between said raised parts. In order to compensate for the lack of uniformity of the discharge created by the lack of uniformity of the electric field, the collimation mask (103) of the preionisation X-rays is thinned from the edges thereof towards the centre thereof in order to progressively reinforce the preionisation from the outer level of the discharge to the centre of the same. The invention enables a discharge to be obtained, and thus a plasma, which are both spatially uniform and temporally stable. The laser beam obtained from said plasma is thus uniform and stable itself.

(57) Abrégé: L'invention concerne le contrôle de l'uniformité spatio-temporelle du faisceau d'un laser à gaz pulsé, notamment d'un laser à excimères de grande puissance. Elle consiste à prévoir sur l'une au moins des électrodes de décharge (101) deux parties latérales surélevées (111, 121), qui permette d'initialiser la décharge électrique à ce niveau et de l'y laisser constamment accrochée après qu'elle se soit étendue à la totalité de la surface de l'électrode comprise entre ces parties surélevées. Pour compenser le manque d'uniformité de la décharge créé par le manque d'uniformité du champ électrique, le masque de collimation

[Suite sur la page suivante]



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En ce qui concerne les codes à deux lettres et autres abréviations, se référer aux "Notes explicatives relatives aux codes et abréviations" figurant au début de chaque numéro ordinaire de la Gazette du PCT.

Internal Application No PC1/FR2004/000557

CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER PC 7 H01S3/097 H056 H05G1/00 H01J1/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 H01S H05G H01J Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, INSPEC, COMPENDEX C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Α "UNIFORM-FIELD ELECTRODES WITH ERNST G J: 1-9 MINIMUM WIDTH" OPTICS COMMUNICATIONS, NORTH-HOLLAND PUBLISHING CO. AMSTERDAM, NL. vol. 49, no. 4, 15 March 1984 (1984-03-15), pages 275-277, XP000707576 ISSN: 0030-4018 cited in the application the whole document X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance Invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the International search Date of mailing of the international search report 7 January 2005 01/02/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 Bésuelle, E

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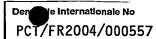
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B. DOMAINES SUR LESQUELS LA RECHERCHE A PORTE		
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Documentation consultée autre que la documentation minimale dans la mesure où ce		·
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